

**WASHINGTON DOCUMENT CENTER (ADV)**

**NYK BUILDING**

**26 October 1945**

**Memo to Col. S. Mashbir**

**Following is brief of background information on WDC (ADV) for General Willoughby:**

**1. Conference on exploitation and handling of documents in Japan was called by War Department, AC of S G-2 on 29 August, 1945.**

**a. Representation:**

**Office of Naval Intelligence  
AC of Air Staff Intelligence  
AC of S G-2 Army Service Forces**

**b. Findings:**

**1. Establishment of joint Army-Navy document agency in Washington to be called Washington Document Center.**

**2. Establishment of advance echelon of Washington Document Center in Japan to reinforce theater document agency and represent all government agencies in the selection of evacuation of documents. This provision was tentatively adopted pending concurrence, C in C SCAP.**

**2. Informal teletype conference, 18 August, 1945, between ATIS and MIS, WD indicated favorable theater reaction to proposed advance echelon of War Department document agency in reinforcement of ATIS.**

**3. a. Extract of radio CA-51641 from CINCAFPAC to War Department dated 3 September, 1945:**

**"Specific information requested as to proposed strength PACMIRS Adv. Ech. and readiness date. . ."**

**b. Extract from Radio W-59356, dated 5 September 1945, from War Department G-2 to CINCAFPAC:**

**"Proposed strength Adv. Ech approx 100 bodies 50-50 language and non-language. Rear CA-51641 coordination with Navy now in progress to make it forward echelon WDC rather than PACMIRS. . . . . readiness date . . . . . Oct 1st estimate . . . . ."**

**c. Extract from Radio WX-64635 from War Department G-2 to CINCAFPAC dated 15 Sept 1945:**

**"Desire to send liaison party to you with mission of laying groundwork for Advance Echelon Washington"**

Document Center and initiating operation this  
agency. . . . ."

d. Extract from Radio CX-15713 from CINCAFPAC to War  
Department dated 28 September, 1945:

"Authority granted to send liaison party Adv  
Ech WDC . . . . ."

e. Extract from letter from AG of S G-2, SCAP to AG of S G-2  
War Department, dated 28 September 1945:

". . .priorities have been set up for the  
six officers whom you are sending to make the pre-  
liminary arrangements for Washington Document  
Center (Advanced Echelon) . . . . .

". . . .this advanced echelon will . . .relieve  
ATIS to a great extent of the burden of serving  
Washington agencies. . . . ."

"It will be possible to provide space and billets  
for . . .WDC (Adv Ech) but some little delay is  
inevitable. . ."

*QAX 8582 on QNRV.*

*and WDC/adv. echelon*